Number and Variety of Observations of the Total Eclipse.

SCENES ALONG THE LINE OF TOTALITY

Prof. Rigge of Creighton University Sketches the Brilliant Scene-Talent, Labor and Instruments Employed in the Work.

as were the preparations for the total solar been in vain. furtherance of astronomical science.

world. It can hardly fall, therefore, to in-terest the scientific circles and students of Father Charroppin did similar work with the line of totality. special eclipse instruments. Accordingly, observatory of Washington, D. C. leaving my large and heavy equatorial uthome, I took a smaller and more portable telescope along with me to Georgia, together

versity for five years and later on was for will make this clear. one year its professor of chemistry.

Equipment and Grounds.

Each of the members of our party contributed his share to the general equipment, so that when we went to work to observe the eclipse we operated telescopes of three and three and one-half inches aperture, ten photographic cameras, giving images of various sizes with various times of exposure, shronometers, a sextant for preliminary and an altazimuth for more accurate determinations of time, latitude and longitude. While we confined our attention to the more scientific and technical parts of our work we were ably assisted in a number of minor details by about a dozen local observers who had been specially drilled in their parts. Our station in Washington was on the

grounds of St. Joseph's academy. Besides the advantage of having an entire cottage equipped with all modern conveniences entirely at our service, we commanded an elevated position, extensive grounds, and that isolation from the rost of the town which was of the greatest importance for our work.

The cloude which had hung over all Georgia for a week disappeared upon my arrival in Washington on Friday night, but they did not interfere with the ob-

of direct vision in the telescope by means of phase. a sunshade or helicecope. The point of contact at which the moon was to indent in advance upon the screen, so that the I visited and inspected in detail. whole attention could be concentrated upon occasion, at the partial celipse of July 19, Creighton University observatory and noted half a second of the computed incinent.

During the progress of the eclipse there was nothing of scientific value to be done. A Benutiful Sight.

During the last five seconds preceding the total phase the sunlight diminished rapidly. Totality came on in an instant, it is true, but there was nothing terrifying or startling in the moment. I was facing the west, expecting to see a dense black cloud-the noon's shadow-in the sky or on the landscape, but there was nothing of the kind wisible.

The sun's corona was a beautiful object. There was the black moon surrounded by superb filaments and streamers of light There were short tufted streamers about the solar poles, curved away from one another like the curves of iron filings before a magnet. At right angles to these there were other and wider streamers about one solar of the sunspots.

by far the most impressive.

The sky illumination was like that of twilight five or ten minutes after sunset, except telescope there were three that it was uniform along the whole horizon, cameras, whose object it was to photograph There was light enough to read the face of the sun's corona, and two actinometers and

versity charset.

Mercury was seen shining with unwonted matically. nated disk to the earth. He seemed to me Ga., were Profs. A. E. Burton and A. G. to be at lesst twice as brilliant as Venus Robbins and MM. G. L. Hosmer and W. called, about three were seen by the people Meteorological observatory. They had fivein town

WASHINGTON, Ga., May 31.—(Special only eighty-six seconds, I had the satisfac-Correspondence of The Bee.)-Great indeed tion to know that my long journey had not

eclipse of May 18, 1990, the work still re- The whole eclipse made on me an impres- when I visited the place on Saturday. maining is perhaps of still greater magni- sion of sublime and inexpressible beauty tude. Observations taken are to be reduced entirely unmixed with terror or fear of any and compared, photographic plates of every kind. This was also the general opinion of kind are to be developed, measured and the colored people in Washington, many of discussed before all the material obtained whom I questioned upon the subject. There will be intelligible and conducive to the were only a few who told me that they had

been frightened. Yet the work done by the astronomical After totality the moon gradually receded world on May 28, especially in the United from the sun, and the last contact was noted States and along the line of totality, has its in the same way that the first had been obown special interest, even to the outside served and with equal facility. And then the

Omaha to know what was done by the his telescope. His experience in observing various eclipse expeditions situated along the last total eclipse of the sun visible in the The parties engaged United States in California on January 1, were numerous. I shall speak only of the 1885, was invaluable to us in many ways, esleading observers and their labors. Our pecially in the photographic part of our proown party of course, comes first. While our gram, which was under the direction of work did not cover the multitude of objects Profs. Frumveller and Quintan. Father Charaimed at by the more amply equipped ex- roppin's ability as an astronomical photog- When the eclipse is about to begin he peditions, our contributions to science are rapher may be estimated from the fact that, not small, considering the means at our dis- although credited to Prof. Pritchest as head posal, for Creighton University observatory, of the California party, his photograph of the while it stands in the foremost rank as a corona is given as the typical one of 1889 by vals. students' observatory, is not provided with Prof. D. P. Todd, the director of the Naval magnificent photographs of the corona ever

Creighton Supplemental Party.

college, Macon, Ga., and Pather A. L. Wag- five inches aperture and six and one-half with a number of other instruments of vari- ner of Spring Hill college. Mobile, Ala., did feet focus, five and one-half and six-inch ous kinds, not to mention the charts, fraw- valuable supplemental work in connection photographic cameras, grating, slit and ings, figures and other data with which with the Creighton university eclipse party, objective-priem spectrographs and minor laborious preparatory calculations had sup. Both these cities-Macon and Mobile-were apparatus. The party was under the ditied me.

On the outskirts of the track of the total rection of Prof. W. W. Campbell, who had The other members of my party at Wash-eclipse. Totality at these places lasted but taken only Mr. C. D. Perrine along with ington, Ga., were Father Charles Charroppin a few seconds. The exact determination of him from the Lick observatory, and relied and Prof. a. Frumveller of the St. Louis this furntion at such places is of great value upon the services of volunteer observers for university, St. Leuis, Mo., and Prof. William to science, as it furnishes astronomers with the management of his many instruments. P. Quinian of St. Kavier college, Cincinnati, a better correction to the moon's position. He was not deceived in his plans and there Prof. Quinian is well known in Omaha, than even observations on the central line were in his party as well as in most of as he was a student at the Creighton uni- of the eclipse can give. A short explanation, the others mentioned many professors of

circles and of about the same size; their ap- ciently complete outfit of their own comparent size varies within certain narrow mensurate with the nature of eclipse work. earth. When the sun is nearer to us than G. D. Swezey of the University of Nebraska his average distance and the moon farther at Lincoln, with his assistant, Mr. Stebaway than her average distance, the moon bins, and Prof. A. A. Nyland of the Utrecht eclipse of the sun, on the other hand, the eclipse of next year, which will be visible pears to be the larger and able, therefore, Indies. to cover more than the whole sun. To an observer on the central line of the shadow path the moon's center would pass over the sum's center and the duration of totality would be a maximum. But the situated near the border line "w "to a lisk would ner, consisted of thirteen observers. They traily, but owing to its mightly larger size county. North Carolina. Not finding there to hide the sun for a few moments.

and Mobile. Both the professors mentioned A second scaffolding or trestle work built had drilled their students to noting arbi- about, but not touching the one which car-May 25, and astronomers all along the line trary intervals with great accuracy. At the ried the lens, served to support the upper made haste to adjust their instruments, time of the eclipse one of their number stood, end of an iron framework. A light-tight Saturday the weather was fair, but on Sun- before a clock beating seconds and counted canvas cover converted this framework into day there was not a cloud to be seen all the seconds aloud with a distinct voice. At a long telescope tube, at the lower end of day and on Monday morning there were a the moments of the beginning and end of which a house was built. few stratus clouds low in the southeast, totality each student noted the second and plates were then mounted at the focus in a fraction as Sest he was able. The difference manner similar to that used by the Lick of the times noted was, of course, the dura-My method of observing the time of the tion of totality. No corrections of any kind The second party from the naval obbeginning of the eclipse consisted in pro- were needed, such as the amount the clock servatory under Prof. Milton Updegraff jecting the sun's image upon a screen se- was slow or fast, not even its daily rate was erected the same kind of apparatus at cured by two rods to the telescope be- to be corrected, unless that was of such a Barnesville, Pike county, Ga., while the yond the eyepiece. This method did away magnitude as to render the clock almost third went to Mexico and the fourth under with the intense heat and glare of the sun worthless as a timepiece, because all that Prof. D. H. Todd, the superintendent of the and was therefore superior to the usual one was needed was the duration of the total

Other Washington Parties.

the sun's image had been carefully marked parties at Washington, Ga., which, of course, telescopes, spectroscopes and polariscopes.

this spot and the time of contact noted consisted of Prof. William H. Pickering, stituting similar observations with like with the utmost precision. Upon a former brother of Prof. Edward C. Picketing, the instruments was to determine whether director of the observatory, and Profs, J. R. 1897, I employed this same method at the Edmands and J. R. Atweil. Prof. Pickering used a five-inch and Prof. Edmands a fourthe time of first contact within less than inch telescope upon the sua's prominences incidentally also to increase the chances of and coronas Prof. Atwell operated a large multiple photographic camera of peculiar construction. The description and use of We simply waited and prepared for the this instrument cannot fail to be inter- ties.

The object of Harvard's novel telescope of observers in the persons of Profs. E. was to photograph small planets which are E. Barnard and E. B. Frost, and MM. F. supposed to be nearer the sun than the Ellerman and G. W. Ritchey of the Yerkes planet Mercury, and which, on account of observatory itself, and of many other vol-

totally eclipsed.

feet wide. In the front of the box, which means of a coelostat-that is, a plane mirwas directed to the sup, there were four ror moved by clockwork. The obvious adlenses, each of three inches aperture and vantages of this method, in that it does tion of the green line in its spectrum. eleven and one-half feet focus, constituting, away with the tall scaffolding, were offset, therefore, four large parallel cameras, however, by the loss of light and the possi-Each of the lenses had at its own focus nine ble distortions of the mirror's surface. diameter in length, as broad as the sun, but region of the sky, 19x10 degrees, with the the corona, plane and concave gratings for of four inches aperture and sixty inches cloven in the middle. A few brilliant and eclipsed sun in the middle, and thus fur- the spectroscopes, prismatic and other pho- focus, a telescopic kinematograph, actinomreseate prominences were seen in the region hished photographs in duplicate, the object tographic cameras. being to prevent an accidental scratch or I viewed the corona through my three-inch pin hole on one plate being mistaken for a telescope, and then through a smaller hand faint star or planet. The other two telescope, and then through a smaller hand faint star or planet. The other two telescope, and then through a smaller hand faint star or planet. telescope, and took note of a number of tech- scopes extended the field of the two just consisted of twelve assistants under the di- telescope and several cameras and nical matters, but the naked eye view was mentioned, one on one side and the other rection of Prof. S. P. Langley. The principal transit and zenith telescope to Norfolk, Va. on the other.

Alongside of the box of the quadruple of twelve inches aperture and 135-foot town college observatory under Father telescope there were three 2-inch focus, probably the largest of the kind ever Hagen, S. J., had taken up its position.

VIEWING THE SHADOWED SUN the chronometer with ease, and hence day five pinhole cameras to indicate by the was by no means changed into night. The action on their photographic plates the sky, cloud and landscape illumination was brightness of the corona and of the neighsoft and pleasing like that of a stage with boring sky. Two hand cameras completed concealed lights, and reminded me of the the outfit of sixteen photographic telescopes sanctuary illumination in the Creighton uni- upon one mounting. The exposure and every other necessary manipulation was done auto-

splendor, as he then turned his fully illumi- The other eclipse parties at Washington. when she is at her best in the twillight sky. Humphreys, from the Massachusetts Insti-Venus also was seen low in the east. While tute of Technology, and Prof. A. L. Rotch, myself did not see any stars properly so with a few assistants, from the Blue Hill inch and three-inch equatorials, a transit A sudden burst of sunlight about the black instrument and other accessories. These moon and totality was over. It had lasted two parties worked in unison with the one from Harvard and their instruments were set up close together on the same hill. The Blue Hill party had not yet arrived

Lick Observatory. The Lick observatory party was located at Thomaston, Ga. They used the method Prof. Schueberle has employed very succesefully in Chile and India. mounts a lens of forty-foot focus firmly upon a tripod. At the focus he places a framework which is to carry the photographic plate, and moves the latter clockwork at the speed and in the direction determined by trial before the He then builds a house about and between the object glass and the plateholder with the material he can get on the spot, the only essential requisite of the house being its protection against the wind and rain, and especially against light. To give his long telescope the proper direction he selects the side a hill which has the required slope. enters the house, and, according to his prearranged program, exposes plates at the proper times and for the proper inter-He has thus taken some of the most obtained.

Besides this large telescope the Lick Father Edgar J. Bernard of St. Stanislaus' observatory party operated a telescope of astronomy from various colleges and ob-The sun and moon appear to us as perfect servatories, who did not possess a suffilknits according to their distance from the Among other notable men there were Prof. in a central eclipse would not be able to observatory, and Prof. J. H. Weiterdink of cover the whole disk of the sun, but would the Leyden observatory. The two last leave a narrow ring of sunlight all around mentioned scientists had been sent by the its own black disk visible, the intensity of Holland Academy of Science to visit our which is so great as to preclude all possi- American eclipse parties in order to prebility of our seeing the corona. In a total pare themselves toward observing the total anditions are reversed and the moon ap- in the Dutch possessions in the East Naval Observatory.

The United States naval observatory of Washington, D. C., had sent out four parties to observe the eclipse. One of these, under the direction of Prof. A. N. Skinnot appear to cover the of the sun cen- took up their station at Pinehurst, Moore and excentric position would just be able a hill of the required slope, they erected a strong scaffolding forty feet high, upon the Now, these conditions obtained at Macon top of which they mounted a five-inch lens. Photographic observatory.

Nautical Almanac, accompanied by Mr. Lowell of the Lowell observatory of Flagstaff, Ariz., went to Algiers. All four par-Besides our own there were three other ties had in addition numerous smaller The object of one observatory's thus occupy-One was the party sent by Harvard and ing such widely separated stations and inthere would be any changes in the sun's corona during the three hours it took the moon's shadow to run across the earth, and favorable weather.

Yerkes Observatory. At Wadesboro, N. C., there were four par-

The Yerkes Observatory party under Prof. George E. Hale had an eminent corps

Smithsonian Institution. The second party at Wadesboro, N. C., instrument was a long horizontal telescope used for oclipse work. It gave an image Fathers Hedrick, Zwack, Brosnan, of the eclipsed sun fifteen and three-quar- and others were there and used visual teleters inches in diameter, while the corona scopes and photographic cameras. extended over a space three feet wide and four feet long. A second telescope was of Trinity college, Durham, N. C., used a hve-inch aperture and forty-foot focus: a large spectrometer, three and one-half third of sex inches glass and seven and onehalf feet focus, and many smaller ones, Prof. Langley used a large spectro-bolometer, the instrument of his own invention, with which he has extended our knowledge of the sun's spectrum to fully twelve times its visible length into the infra-red region. The essential part of the instrument is a micro conically thin wire or bundle of wires of platinum, through which a current of electricity of such feebleness passes that the current of an ordinary incandescent lamp would supply 20,000,000 of such instruments, The electrical conductivity of this fine platinum wire is very much affected by heat, so that when the wire is placed in the sun's spectrum and moved along it by clockwork, whenever it passes a black or comparatively cold line in the spectrum, corona, and thus obtain a complete picture two 4-inch cameras, one #12 and one 3-in h more current passes through a galvanometer, of the corona upon a single plate. and its needle swings over a greater arc. A mirror attached to this needle reflects a Polytechnic institute used a three and onebeam of light upon photographic paper, half-inch equatorial visually at Forsythe, ent. labor and instruments in securing cowhich is also moved by clockwork, and in Ga. this way an altogether automatic record is Prof. F L. O. Wadaworth of Allegheny the reduction of these observations, together radiations of the corona Princeton University.

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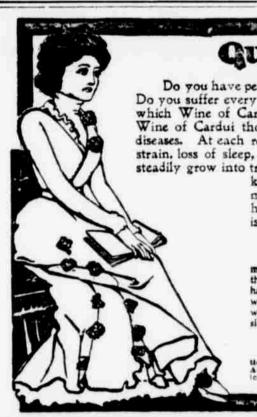
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Wine of Cardul

Princeton university, under the leadership this proximity and their own diminuitys unteer assistants. Instead of building a of Prof. C. A. Young, the well known size, cannot be seen except when the sun is high scaffolding to support the upper end author of one of the best text books of a long telescope. Prof. Hale laid his of aptronomy ever published, and himself a In appearance the instrument was a large sixty-two-foot telescope upon the ground distinguished authority upon the solar box twelve feet long, five feet high and six and sent the rays of the sun into it by spectrum. He investigated especially the distribution of the unknown element called coronium in the sun's corona, and the post-

The fourth party came from the British Astronomical association in England, under photographic plates of \$x10 inches. This party also had a twenty-inch concave the direction of Rev. J. M. Bacon. They Two of these telescopes covered the same mirror for measuring the heat radiations of brought with them a photographic telescope eters and four equatorially mounted cameres

South of Norfolk the party from George-Near Raleigh, N. C., Prof. C. W. Edwards

servations were also made at all the regular stations of the weather bureau in the southo n and southeastern states At Sileam, Ga., Mr. Charles Burkhalter, with seven assistants from Chahot observatory, California, used two 4-inch telescopes of fifteen feet foral length. Mr Burkhalter made use of a rotating disk of his own invention, which uncovered the

for the arranged intervals, the object being to equalize as much as possible the unequal light coming from the different parts of the Prof. C.

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inch telescope, concave grating spectroscope, heliostat and camerne. The United States weather bureau, repre sented by Profs. Cleveland Abne and Frank H. Bigolow, used four-inch telescopes and polariscopes. Standard ineteorological ob-

photographic plates at the proper places and Crockett of the Rensselaer gratings.

made of the sun's heat spectrum. This observatory, the distinguished spectro- with the work upon the numerous photomethod of observation, which has been used acopist. Mr. Brashear, so much renewned graphs of all kinds taken with every imby Prof. Langley for years upon the sun's for his optical work in the finest kinds of aginable size of camera, and care and accudisk in its entirety, was applied by him astronomical instruments, and others, were racy of art and science, cannot fail to make during the eclipse to discover the heat located at Fort Deposit, Ala. They used a the American total solar eclipse of May 28. twenty-inch reflecting telescope of 100 feet 1900, the most memorable in the annals of focus, spectroscopic apparatus in which the astronomy. WILLIAM F. RIGGE, S. J. The third party at Wadesboro came from three prims used were 3xing inches in size,

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camera with curved plates, and numerous